



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

DATE: Week Ending Friday, March 20, 2009

TO: Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Community

FROM: Ginny Brown, Legislative Liaison and Nicole Storm, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Report – 2009 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

On Monday of this week, HB09-1191, the Department bill “**Ahlborn**”, or Liens Against Third Parties, Representative McCann and Senator Boyd, passed on third and final reading in the Senate. The proposal now goes to Leadership for signature.

Representative Primavera and Senator Kester’s bill, HB09-1164, **Surcharge on Breast Cancer Awareness Special License Plates**, establishes a twenty five dollar surcharge for the purchase or renewal of breast cancer awareness license plates and expands Medicaid eligibility under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment program (BCCP) to individuals who have been screened by a provider who does not receive funds through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The bill passed on third reading in the House and was assigned to the Transportation and Finance Committee in the Senate.

On Tuesday, the Department appeared before the Legislative Audit Committee to address questions brought and recommendations forth by the State Auditor for the fiscal year 2008. The Department is committed to addressing the issues raised by the committee and continuing to improve in all areas for our clients.

Also on Tuesday, HB09-1293, **Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act**, Representatives Ferrandino and Riesberg and Senators Keller and Boyd, was heard before the House Finance Committee and passed. This bill would allow Colorado to leverage state funds to draw down additional federal funds to provide coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans. The proposal also would help stem the rising cost of health insurance for businesses and families by addressing cost-shifting, one of the key drivers of rising costs, without increasing the burden on taxpayers. By assessing a provider fee on hospitals, Colorado would generate an additional \$600 million a year to provide coverage to the uninsured, and receive \$600 million in federal matching funds. The combined \$1.2 billion would cover more than 100,000 currently uninsured Coloradans through Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). The funds also would improve hospital reimbursement rates for service provided through Medicaid and the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP).

On Friday, the proposal was heard before House Appropriations Committee and referred to Committee of the Whole for Second Reading next week.

Modify Colorado Cares Rx, SB09-132, Senator Boyd and Representative Kerr. The bill modifies the Colorado Cares Rx program and requires the Department to make information available to the public regarding the availability of lower-cost generic or discounted prescription drug programs. This bill was heard before the

Appropriations Committee on Friday and was referred with amendments to the House Committee of the Whole.

On Friday of this week, HB09-1222, **Medicaid Over-expenditure Authority**, sponsored by the Joint Budget Committee, was passed on second reading in the House.

For more information about legislative activities please contact Ginny Brown 303-866-3972 or Nicole Storm 303-866-3180 or access www.colorado.gov to search the General Assembly Web site. A legislative report will be updated weekly on our Web site www.colorado.gov/hcpf under Research and Partners, Legislative Information, Legislative Update.